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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 9 May 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to our earlier letters concerning Israel's attacks on southern Lebanon and the Western Bekaa and the arbitrary practices against the civilian inhabitants in which it engages on a daily basis, I have the honour to notify you of the series of such incidents that took place during April 1997.

1 April 1997

At 0930 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Iqlim al-Tuffah area at low altitude.

At 1530 hours outlying areas of Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and Kafr Tibnit and the vicinity of the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks in Nabatiyah al-Fawqa came under multi-calibre machine-gun fire from Israeli warplanes and helicopters. The outskirts of Kafr Tibnit also came under Israeli artillery fire, and one person, Muhammad Jawdat Faqih, was wounded.

At 1500 hours a Lahad militia group arrested Husayn Muhammad Shihadah from Ghanduriyah.

At 1600 hours Maryam Ali al-Bustani, a 10-year-old girl, suffered miscellaneous injuries when an explosive device was detonated.

2 April 1997

At 1325 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Tyre area at medium altitude, breaking the sound barrier.

At 1330 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Damur area at low altitude.

3 April 1997

At 0830 hours Ayta al-Jabal, in Bint Jubayl district, came under artillery fire and serious damage was caused to property.

4 April 1997

At 1830 hours outlying areas of Kafr Tibnit and the vicinity of the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks in Nabatiyah al-Fawqa came under sniper fire from Israeli positions in the border strip.

5 April 1997

Israeli combat helicopters overflew the Libbaya vicinity and the hills to the east.

8 April 1997

At 1115 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area.

12 April 1997

Outlying areas of Ayn Bu Siwar, Jarju' and Arabsalim and areas along the Nab' al-Tasah came under artillery fire.

13 April 1997

At 1230 hours a landmine exploded in an outlying area of Aramta, in Jazzin district, wounding two persons from the town.

At 1430 hours outlying areas of Majdal Zun, in Tyre district, came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1600 hours Israeli combat helicopters overflew Frun and Ghanduriyah and areas along the Litani river, strafing the wadis around the towns with machine-gun fire.

15 April 1997

At 0400 hours outlying areas of Frun, Ghanduriyah, Burj Qallawiyah and Qallawiyah came under Israeli artillery fire. It ceased at 0900 hours. Two people were killed and three were injured.

16 April 1997

At 2200 hours outlying areas of Luwayzah and Jarju' came under fire from medium machine-guns located in Israeli positions in the border strip.

17 April 1997

At 0100 hours outlying areas of Jba', Ayn Bu Siwar and Arabsalim and the Mlita hills and Jabal Safi came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 0200 hours outlying areas of Kafr Milki, in Tyre district, came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1145 hours outlying areas of Arabsalim, Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar and Jba' and the Mlita hills and Jabal Safi came under Israeli artillery fire. It ceased at around 1500 hours.

18 April 1997

At 1115 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at high altitude, breaking the sound barrier on two occasions.

At 1230 hours the hills to the south of Mashgharah and Ayn al-Tinah and the Jabal Abi Rashid highlands came under intermittent Israeli artillery fire. It ceased at 1450 hours.

19 April 1997

At 1055 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps at high altitude.

At 1120 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at low altitude.

20 April 1997

At 1100 hours a landmine exploded at Bkasin, in Jazzin district, killing one person. He was taken to Jazzin government hospital.

At 1115 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Mashgharah, Ayn al-Tinah and Maydun areas and were met with ground-based anti-aircraft fire. The overflights ceased at 1915 hours.

At 1630 hours Israeli warplanes attacked outlying areas of Jazzin in the Azibah al-Fawqa area.

21 April 1997

At 0800 hours outlying areas of Ayn Bu Siwar and Arabsalim and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills came under Israeli artillery fire. At the same time, warplanes overflew the Iqlim al-Tuffah area.

22 April 1997

At 1030 hours a landmine exploded on the Anan-Qtali road, causing some damage.

At 1130 hours outlying areas of Ayta al-Jabal, Tibnin, Bra'shit and Safad al-Battikh came under Israeli artillery fire.

24 April 1997

At 1100 hours outlying areas of Majdal Silm, Qabrikha, Tulin, Kafra, Yatar and Haddatha came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1430 hours Israeli combat helicopters strafed outlying areas of Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and the vicinity of the Kafr Tibnit crossing. Two persons were wounded at the crossing.

At 2000 hours outlying areas of Shaqra, Bra'shit, Majdal Silm, Tulin, Qabrikha and Sawwanah came under Israeli artillery fire.

25 April 1997

At 0600 hours outlying areas of Yatar, Kafra, Haris, Ayta al-Jabal, Haddatha, Bra'shit, Shaqra, Majdal Silm, Frun, Ghanduriyah and Sawwanah came under Israeli artillery fire.

27 April 1997

At 0700 hours a bus travelling from Qilya to Mashgharah, in Western Bekaa district, with eight schoolchildren on board came under heavy-weapons fire from the Israeli forces positioned on Ahmadiyah hill. No one was hurt.

29 April 1997

At 0630 hours the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks in Nabatiyah and the Bayad neighbourhood came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 0730 hours outlying areas of Qilya, in Western Bekaa district, came under artillery fire from the Israeli forces positioned on Ahmadiyah hill.

30 April 1997

At 1150 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Iqlim al-Tuffah and Nabatiyah areas at low altitude, breaking the sound barrier.

At 1545 hours outlying areas of Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar, Jba', Kafr Rumman and Arabsalim, Wadi Kafr Fila, the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills and areas along the Nab' al-Tasah came under Israeli artillery fire.

The Lebanese Government strongly condemns the continued Israeli occupation and these fresh attacks and arbitrary practices inflicted on the Lebanese population, which have left a number of casualties and have caused further serious damage to property.

Like previous attacks, this new series is in flagrant violation of the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon and constitutes a breach of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, of international law and of basic human rights.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative